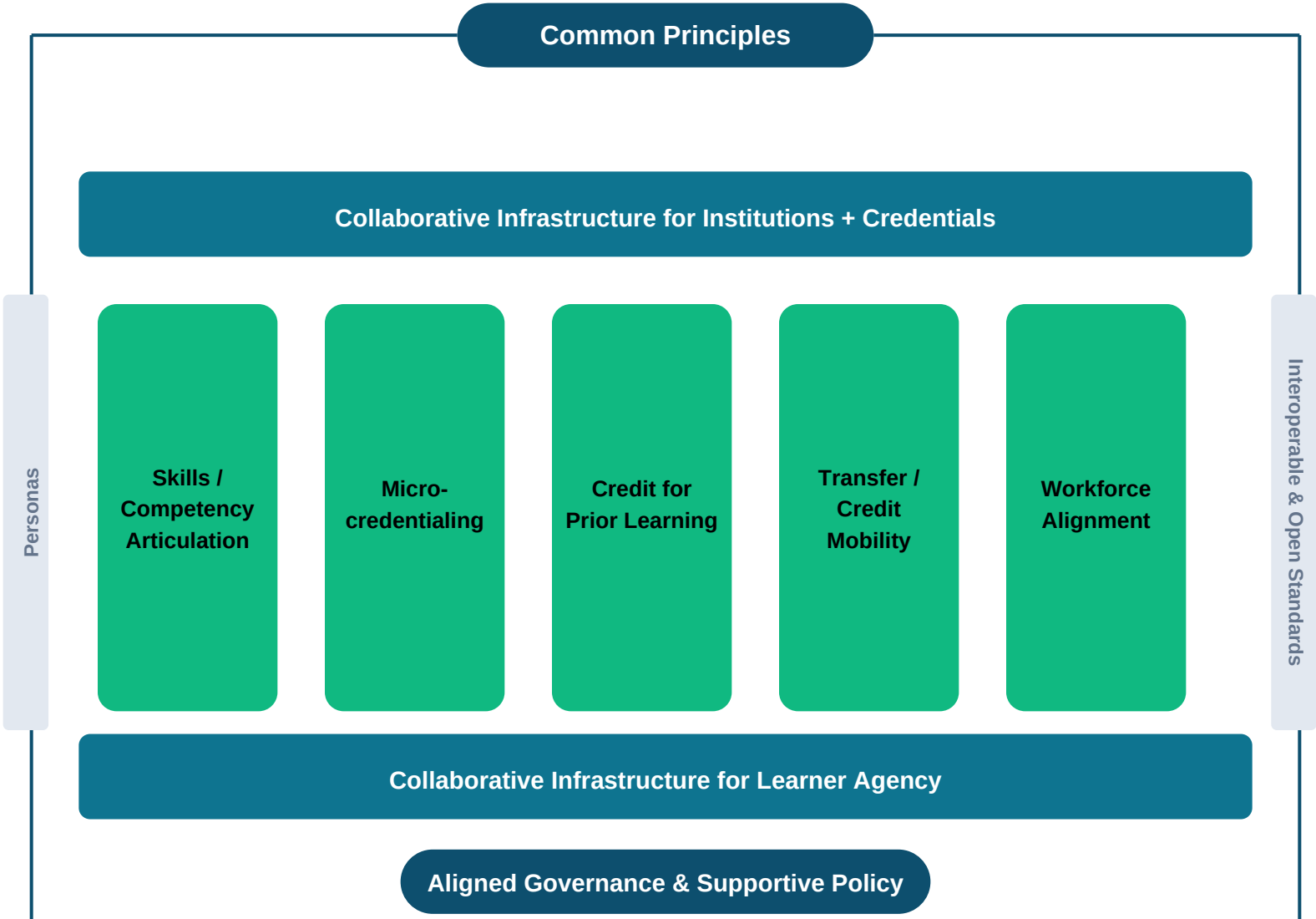
LEARNING MOBILITY FRAMEWORK



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Learning Mobility Framework

Enabling learning mobility requires state and institutional leaders to address key policy and technical components that ease transitions along learners' educational and career journeys. The Learning Mobility Framework outlines the data and technical infrastructure and policy elements needed to realize the promise of learning mobility across the education-to-employment ecosystem.

The framework is anchored in an aligned systems approach to technical infrastructure—for both institutional and credential data, and for learner agency. It serves as a neutral starting point to assemble diverse stakeholders, a landscape analysis to inventory strengths and gaps, and provides opportunity to iterate and adapt over time.

Framework Structure and Components

The framework provides a flexible structure to align efforts toward common goals that benefit learners, education providers, and employers. By visualizing these components, stakeholders can identify connections, gaps, and opportunities to improve the infrastructure that supports learners' educational and career opportunities.

Developing Common Principles

Common principles bridge the gap between aspirational goals and practical implementation. They help stakeholders understand the "why and how" behind initiatives, ensuring that all efforts align with the central mission of learning mobility. The guiding principles serve as a foundation for all collaborative work. These principles guide progress and decision-making, maintain flexibility while preserving direction, and build on established frameworks from AACRAO, Arizona State University's Trusted Learning Network, SkillsFWD, and the LER Accelerator Initiative.

Aligned Governance and Supportive Policies

Shared governance is crucial for turning the Learning Mobility Framework into actionable outcomes. It brings together diverse stakeholders, aligning their efforts toward common goals. Governance ensures coordination across institutions, establishes clear decision-making processes, and maintains momentum through leadership transitions. This includes both "Big P" policy (state-level legislation, regulations, or formalized state agency policy) and "Little p" policy (institutional practices adopted in an aligned manner across collaborative members).

Personas

The framework is grounded in learner personas, recognizing that effective solutions must be designed around real human needs and journeys. Understanding these personas helps identify specific barriers and inefficiencies, ensuring that solutions meet learners' needs. Examples include traditional high school graduates, working adults balancing responsibilities, career changers with existing credentials, and learners with non-traditional educational backgrounds.

Interoperable and Open Standards

Interoperability and open standards are vital for creating an effective learning mobility ecosystem that involves seamless data flow across technologies, systems, and institutional boundaries. Interoperable standards enable issuance of verified credentials without manual intervention, recognition of prior learning across institutions, and easy access to learning and employment history.

Institutional Verticals of Work

The elements at the center of the Learning Mobility Framework represent tangible institutional bodies of work involving standards, technical systems and institutional policy: Skills/Competency Articulation, Microcredentialing, Credit for Prior Learning, Transfer and Credit Mobility, and Workforce Alignment.